

Deputy Chief Mental Health Advocate

SERVICE DELIVERY SPECIFICATIONS

Role title:	Deputy Chief Mental Health Advocate
Engagement Instrument:	The Deputy Chief Mental Health Advocate (the Deputy) is engaged by the Chief Mental Health Advocate (the Chief Advocate) under a contract for services pursuant to s350 of the <i>Mental Health Act 2014</i> (MH Act; see also the Terms and Conditions of Engagement of the Deputy Chief Mental Health Advocate).
Period of engagement:	Up to 3 years, with the possibility of extension(s)
Role of MHAS:	<p>The Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS) is established by the Chief Mental Health Advocate. Part 20 of the MH Act and Part 8 of the <i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> (the CLMI Act) set out the functions and powers of the Chief Mental Health Advocate and those acts and the <i>Declared Places (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 2015</i> (the DPMIA Act) sets out functions of Mental Health Advocates.</p> <p>In summary the role of MHAS is to provide advocacy and rights protection for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• people who are subject to involuntary mental health treatment orders (including referred and/or detained person), some voluntary mental health consumers, residents of psychiatric hostels, and certain people with mental impairment in the criminal justice system• unfit accused and supervised persons pursuant to the CLMI Act (as of 1 September 2024)• residents of a declared place (the Bennett Brook Disability Justice Centre) pursuant to the DPMIA Act. <p>MHAS helps to ensure their voices are heard.</p>

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to: Chief Mental Health Advocate

Positions reporting direct to the Deputy:

- Senior Mental Health Advocates (five as November 2023 and expanding under the CLMI Act)
- Executive Assistant.

MHAS VALUES

What we strive for:

- Commitment to making a difference
- Engagement without judgement
- Integrity
- Being consumer-led
- Tenacity.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF ROLE

The primary objectives of the Deputy are:

- provide advice, assistance, control and direction to Senior Advocates, ensure MHAS standards and protocols are adhered to, and adequate training is provided to perform Advocates' legislative functions
- promote compliance with legislation including the Charter of Mental Health Care Principles, standards and local policies as per the Chief Advocate and Advocates' functions in relevant legislation
- perform delegated functions of the Chief Advocate under the MH Act and the CLMI Act
- achieve MHAS's vision, purpose and strategic objectives.

As a member of MHAS Executive, the Deputy provides leadership on the development and implementation of proactive strategies aimed at ensuring best practice advocacy services within MHAS' remit across Western Australia. The Deputy promotes systemic improvement in mental health, and in criminal justice services for people with mental impairment that may impede their access to a fair trial.

The Deputy has the powers and functions of Mental Health Advocates under the MH, CLMI and DPMIA Acts and may be required to act as the Chief Advocate from time to time.

SERVICE DELIVERY SPECIFICATIONS

Leadership

- Leads and manages the team of Senior Advocates.
- As a member of MHAS Executive, provides leadership on the development and implementation of proactive strategies aimed at meeting legislative requirements.
- Deputises and/or acts for the Chief Advocate, as required.

Operational management

- Prepares high-level inquiries, correspondence and significant reports (eg annual reports, complex inquiries and systemic inquiries), and facilitates the preparation of a range of other reports.
- Actively promotes compliance with the Charter of Mental Health Care Principles and relevant principles of the CLMI Act to ensure people's rights are observed and enforced.

- Monitor advocacy service quality and outcomes and lead the development of continuous improvement strategies aligned to legislative requirements and MHAS' standards and protocols.
- Design and implement strategies for the continuous improvement of Advocate practice and capability development.
- Contribute to the continuous improvement of MHAS' data quality to support systemic and service level advocacy.
- Contribute to systemic advocacy by ensuring that appropriate, reliable information from MHAS' data systems is prepared and presented in a timely fashion to external decision-makers.
- Leads investigations into complaints about MHAS, as requested by the Chief Advocate.

Policy and systemic improvement

Facilitates best practice advocacy services and systemic improvement in the quality of services by:

- identifying strategies for effectively addressing breaches of MHAS statutory and other responsibilities
- the Charter of Mental Health Care Principles, the objects and principles of relevant legislation and consumer rights
- leading systemic reviews and/or complex inquiries that influence change
- identifying and progressing opportunities to advocate for policy and legislative reform
- working across MHAS to build the capacity of the advocacy function, including shaping contemporary, best practice protocols.

Stakeholder engagement and representation

Advances the organisation's vision, purpose and strategic objectives by:

- engaging with people with lived expertise to ensure policy and practice is informed by their knowledge leading stakeholder education on matters of strategic significance and promoting the adoption of system-level practice improvements
- proactively engaging with a wide range of relevant external stakeholders
- representing the Chief Advocate and MHAS in system-wide settings and on state and national committees as required.

Other duties as directed

REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROLE

The following requirements of the role are assessed in the context of the service delivery specifications.

Shapes and manages strategy

The ability to champion the rights of people in the mental health system whose liberty and self-determination are impacted, and of people in the criminal justice system with mental impairment who may not be able to participate in a trial. Knowledge of the impact of disability and mental health conditions, stigma and inadequate service provision on people's quality of

life. Demonstrated ability to develop strategies to promote best practice advocacy services and facilitate systemic improvement in the delivery of services (MHAS and external).

Achieves results

Demonstrated ability to lead and implement effective human rights reforms and systemic improvements ideally in one of the following sectors: mental health, disability, human services, drug and alcohol.

Leads a team to create conditions in which team members perform to their potential and deliver against the strategy plan.

Exemplifies personal integrity and self-awareness

Exhibits a personal commitment to professionalism, ethics and integrity, probity, professional development and to working with people who have experienced social exclusion and/or marginalisation. Possesses a strong understanding of contemporary issues and trends in mental health, psychosocial disability and human rights.

Builds productive relationships

Ability to establish, foster and maintain effective, collaborative working relationships with a wide range of people and organisations, including people with lived expertise in mental ill-health, distress and disability.

Communicates and influences effectively

Ability to effectively communicate, persuade, negotiate, and represent the organisation at all levels. Demonstrated high level written communication for diverse purposes and target audiences.

Qualifications and professional experience

1. An undergraduate qualification in a relevant field (eg health, human services, mental health, disability, human rights, law); and
2. At least five years' working at senior or executive management level.
3. Some knowledge of mental health services and/or supports for people with intellectual and cognitive impairment, and/or the interface with psycho-social disability services; and

Desirable

1. Post-graduate qualifications in a relevant field.
2. A working knowledge of mental health services that are available to people who are acutely and/or chronically unwell.